

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA NO. 13-09-24**

Date Published: September 19, 2013

For Work Week Commencing: September 23, 2013

Commission Meeting: September 24, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

*General Introduction* This agenda is the Commission's agenda for the work week designated. In the latter part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://psc.mt.gov>.

*Place of Meetings* All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

*Live webcast* Unless otherwise noted on this agenda, all Commission meetings held during regular business hours that are noticed on this agenda will be webcast live via the audio and video feed links on the PSC website at <http://psc.mt.gov> (go to "Agendas & Meetings" then "Audio/Video Archives"). The audio feeds of meetings are also archived at the same website location.

*Inquiries* General inquiries concerning this agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

*Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities* Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room – No Web Audio Feed)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. Approval of Commission Minutes (Aleisha)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of September 17, 2013

2. Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink (Qwest) D2013.6.47 (Mike)

CenturyLink has filed for approval with this Commission an amendment to the interconnection agreement between Qwest and 365 Wireless in Docket No. D2013.6.47. The amendment was noticed on July 9, 2013 and the Commission has not received any comments or objections regarding the amendment. 365 Wireless, LLC is a registered telecommunications provider with the Public Service Commission authorized to provide service throughout the state. Probable Motion: Move to approve the amendment to the interconnection agreement between Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and 365 Wireless in Docket No. D2013.6.47.

3. Eastern Montana Taxi and Transport LLC TN2588 (Nickie)

Eastern Montana Taxi and Transport LLC, Baker, Montana requests suspension of PSC No. 9485 effective September 18, 2013 to March 18, 2014. Probable Motion: Approve the initial suspension of PSC No. 9485 as requested.

Class B – Passengers, in rate regulated service between all points and places in Baker, Montana and a 250 mile radius thereof. LIMITATION: Transportation must originate or terminate in Fallon County, Montana.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. Communications Director Position - Request approval to hire for the Communications Director Position. (9/24/13)
2. Regional transmission projects, initiatives, and issues – Update Commission on current transmission topics in Montana and the West. (9/24/13)

**Other Meetings**

**9/26/13 – 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – NRRI teleseminar: “Wind Integration – Actions, Integration Costs and Other Regulatory Challenges” – (Commission Conference Room – no web audio feed)**

Weekly Scheduling, Review of Monthly Calendars, and Docket Status Updates (if requested by a Commissioner).

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov/Consumers/comments>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. NorthWestern Energy D2013.6.42 (Mike)

On September 13, 2013, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requested approval to adjust its BPA Residential Exchange Program Credit (BPA Credit) to reflect an increase in NWE's Residential Exchange Program Settlement Benefits (REP Benefits) for BPA fiscal year 2014. At the time of its May 2013 filing, the REP Benefit amount NWE would receive for fiscal year 2014 and 2015 had not yet been determined by BPA. The REP Benefits schedule for fiscal year 2014 and 2015 is now available and included as Attachment A in the filing. It is now known NWE will receive \$5,063,431 under the REP Benefits schedule for fiscal year 2014. The proposed rate adjustments are designed to credit fiscal year 2014 REP Benefits, the under-refunded balance as of August 31, 2013, and associated PSC and Montana Consumer Counsel fees, for a total amount of \$5,192,659 to be credited to ratepayers. This filing established BPA Credit rates per kWh by customer class as shown in the following table:

<u>Rate Classes</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Residential	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)
Residential Employee	\$ (0.000712)	\$ (0.001243)	\$ (0.000531)
General Service Secondary	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)
Irrigation	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)
Lighting	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)

NWE has requested the credit adjustment take effect October 1, 2013. The proposed rates will be in effect for nine months until the rates change on July 1, 2014, at which time NWE will submit its 2014 filing. As a result of the increase in the credit, the decrease on the bill for a typical residential customer using 750 kWh per month will be \$0.66 per month or \$7.92 per year. The actual amount will depend on each customer's type and usage.

**Protective Orders – Notice Items** The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. The Commission will rule on the requests no earlier than 10 days after the publication date of this agenda. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Copies of these requests may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

**Protective Orders – Information Items** The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM 38.2.5008. Copies of these orders may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**1. Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (Qwest) Multi State and Individual Case Basis Agreements**

Any qualified person who signs a non-disclosure agreement pursuant to the term protective Order No. 6999 in Docket No. D2009.5.60 may review the following agreements at the Commission's offices, 1701 Prospect Ave. Helena, MT, 59620, or at Qwest's office, 441 North Park Avenue, Helena, Mt. 59601. If any interested party has reason to believe that Qwest's prices are below relevant costs in the agreements, the interested party may file an objection with the Commission within 30 days of the date of this notice

(please see Qwest Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR) Docket No. D2008.1.3, Order No. 6889n, Joint Stipulation).

- 1.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink (Qwest) and Power Engineering, Inc. have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Power Engineering, Inc.
- 2.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and Kendred have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Kendred.
- 3.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and Boise Inc. have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Boise Inc.
- 4.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and Border State Industries have signed a Rate Plan Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Border State Industries.
- 5.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and Easter Seals have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Easter Seals.
- 6.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and Wilderness Society have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Wilderness Society.
- 7.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and Daily Premium Meats have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Daily Premium Meats.

### **New Filings Received in Past Week**

D2013.9.65 - Hiland Crude LLC - Notice of Acceptance of the Provisions of Chapter 13 of Title 69 of the Montana Code and Statement Regarding the Applicability of the Chapter to its Crude Petroleum Pipeline

N2013.9.66 - Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. - 2013 Biennial Electric Integrated Resource Plan